The Baltic Sea Region is an economically booming part of Europe. Sea traffic and maritime economy, due to great changes in this sector and new political reality, are undergoing structural transformations. This process has a great impact on the Baltic sea cities in terms of modernization of harbours and shipyards, as well as changes in territorial occupancy. It is even more obvious after the enlargement of European Union.

In harbour cities one can still find derelict brown field areas or abandoned industrial objects, which create challenges and new possibilities for development. Shifting of harbour activities to modern, functional locations is an opportunity both for the port as for the city.

Szczecin-Swinoujscie is one of the biggest "maritime clusters" in the Baltic Sea region containing all maritime activities like shipbuilding, ship repair, maritime traffic (ferries between Poland and Scandinavian countries), transportation, fishery, storage, cooling, etc. The long tradition of Szczecin's port, reaching the Middle Ages, has influenced the urban structure.

There are some important factors, which offer to Szczecin, the middle size Polish city with over 400 000 inhabitants, the extraordinary position and chances:

- the western location close the German border,
- the natural role as the centre of transboundary Pomerania region, the capital of the Polish Zachodniopomorskie Province,
- the vicinity of Berlin, capital of Germany (150 km).

SZCZECIN is nowadays transforming its image from the industrial one to the city of knowledge (70 000 students at 15 universities and private high education facilities), logistic and trade centre, city of culture, tourism and service.

New economic impulses have encouraged the harbour leadership to exchange the extensively used areas in the city centre of Szczecin for the new development areas. This operation gives a unique chance to regenerate a historic area of Lasztownia, located on the right bank of the Odra River for the vibrant development on the waterfront. The area, pointing over the river toward the old city with the Castle of Pomeranian Dukes, offers a good chance for transformation into an energetic part of the city.

The Lasztownia project is open for public discussion, orientated to the ideas of sustainability, and mix use of urban functions. The quays opened for pedestrian traffic and mooring facilities, ferry terminal, hotels, leisure and cultural facilities and other waterfront related functions are planned. Several urban concepts has already been developed. The masterplan is under construction.

The Municipality of Szczecin invites investors, architects and urban planners to co-operation, which shall shape the future of the modern waterfront heart of the city.

Welcome to SZCZECIN!
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